

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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**SUSQUEHANNA RIVER ANADROMOUS FISH RESTORATION
COOPERATIVE (SRAFRFC) APPROVES A NEW
MIGRATORY FISH MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN FOR THE
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN**

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) today announced that a new Migratory Fish Management and Restoration Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin (Plan) was approved by a unanimous vote of the Susquehanna River Anadromous Fish Restoration Cooperative (SRAFRFC), Policy Committee. USFWS chairs the SRAFRFC, which is a chartered interagency cooperative organization comprised of the fishery agencies from the three basin states New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the federal government (USFWS, and the National Marine Fisheries Service) working together to restore self-sustaining migratory fishery resources and their habitats to the Susquehanna River Basin.

Migratory fish restoration in the Susquehanna River Basin has been a cooperative effort from the start, with the state and federal resource agencies, and the river basin commission working together with hydropower companies and others to establish fish passage, fish culture and stocking programs, and other activities to enhance and effectively manage migratory fish resources in the basin.

The *Migratory Fish Management and Restoration Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin* will be used by SRAFRFC and others in managing and restoring migratory fish resources in the Susquehanna River Basin. The overall goal of the plan is to: **Restore self-sustaining, robust, and productive stocks of migratory fish capable of producing sustainable fisheries, to the Susquehanna River Basin throughout their historic ranges in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York. The restoration goals are 2 million American shad and 5 million river herring spawning in the Susquehanna River Basin upstream of the York Haven Dam. Goals for American eel and other migratory species are yet to be determined.** The Plan sets five objectives each with a number of management actions which if accomplished should achieve the goals of the plan.

This comprehensive Susquehanna River watershed plan will serve as the lead document for guiding migratory fish management and restoration. The success of this plan is dependent upon stakeholder involvement in a dynamic process of fish stock restoration efforts, implementation of effective upstream and downstream passage, promoting water quality monitoring and improvements, and promoting watershed planning activities. Benchmarks set forth in this plan and will be reviewed periodically by SRAFRFC thereby maximizing the probability of success by employing science-based evaluations and strategic realignment. The full Plan is available on the USFWS web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/susquehannariver/>